



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
Milwaukee County
SCOTT WALKER • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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**WALKER ANNOUNCES 2006 A RECORD YEAR FOR MITCHELL INTERNATIONAL;
AIRPORT HOSTED MORE THAN 7 MILLION PASSENGERS**

MILWAUKEE, WI – Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker announced today that Mitchell International Airport finished the year with an all-time-high number of passengers. For the year 2006, the passenger total is a record 7,299,294, a 0.43 percent increase over the 7,268,000 passengers using Mitchell in 2005.

Walker credited “southeastern Wisconsin’s strong and growing economy, along with an increased number of flights to popular business and leisure destinations at competitive airfares,” as key factors in the 2006 passenger growth. Airport Director Barry Bateman added, “With the completion of some of the renovation projects at Mitchell, the airport is easier to navigate and more comfortable for our passengers. Travelers are increasingly choosing the ease of Mitchell over the congestion of O’Hare.”

The December total of 556,420 was 0.07 percent lower than the December 2005 count of 556,788 passengers. Even though there were 368 fewer passengers using General Mitchell International Airport in December 2006 than in December 2005, the U.S. Department of Transportation statistics rank Mitchell International 50th largest in the nation and 34th in number of cities served nonstop.

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MITCHELL AIRPORT RECORD YEAR
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Highlights of 2006 include:

- In July, renovation and widening of the Concourse C stem were completed. The security checkpoint, gate seating areas and corridor were widened, and new clerestory windows were added to bring in more natural light. The first phase of artist Carlos Alves' Aerial Wisconsin, the terrazzo floor and ceramic medallions featuring scenes of Wisconsin from the air, was unveiled.
- In August, one lane was added to the Concourse E security checkpoint, bringing the total number of lanes to four.
- In December, the renovation of the Concourse D stem was completed, creating three new ground-level boarding gates. The stem also has an additional 7,120 sq ft, enlarged airline gate seating areas, new and remodeled food, beverage and retail areas, a wider corridor, a new children's play area and children's restroom, and two two-story atriums with floor-to-ceiling windows that not only let in more natural light, but also showcase the colorful aviation-influenced artwork of local artist Richard Taylor. Two years ago, the number of security checkpoint lanes on Concourse D was increased from four to six in anticipation of the stem renovation.

A number of additional major improvements to accommodate the growing number of passengers at Mitchell International are underway and scheduled for completion in 2007:

- Renovation of the Concourse E stem is nearing completion. The corridor has been widened and the lighting improved, and a new children's play area and family restroom have been added.
- Eight new gates on Concourse C are scheduled to open in July.
- A new taxiway that will accommodate two-way aircraft traffic around the eight new Concourse C gates will open shortly.

General Mitchell International Airport is owned by Milwaukee County and operated by the Department of Transportation & Public Works, Airport Division, under the policy direction of the Milwaukee County Executive and the County Board of Supervisors. The airport is entirely funded by user fees; no property tax dollars are used for the airport's capital improvements or for its day-to-day operation. For more information on Mitchell International, visit www.mitchellairport.com.

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